

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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R 010111Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT:PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN UNITED
STATES AND VENEZUELA

1. PURSUANT TO JANUARY 29 CONVERSATION OF THE SECRETARY
WITH FON MIN ESCOVAR, DEPARTMENT TODAY (FEB 28) FORMALLY
PROPOSED TO VENEZUELAN EMBASSY COMMENCEMENT OF BILATERAL
TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. EXACT TIMING, FORMAT AND FREQUENCY OF TALKS HAVE
YET TO BE DETERMINED BUT AT LEAST IN INITIAL STAGE THEY
WILL BE CONDUCTED BY DEPT OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON WITH
VENEZUELAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL. AS TALKS PROGRESS, SUBJECT
MATTER WILL SHAPE COMPOSITION BOTH GROUPS OF PARTICIPANTS,
WITH DEPT INVITING REPRESENTATION FROM OTHER APPROPRIATE
USG AGENCIES AND VENEZUELAN EMBASSY FREE TO REINFORCE
WITH ANY DESIRED OFFICIALS FROM CARACAS.

3. AS WE ENVISAGE AGENDA, IT WILL COMMENCE WITH CONSIDERA-
TION OF WORLD PROBLEMS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO FRAMEWORK
WITHIN WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES MUST OPERATE, WOULD MOVE ON
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AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS THROUGH REGIONAL PROBLEMS, AND

FINALLY CONCENTRATE ON CONTINUING BASIS ON ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THIS BILATERAL PHASE, EMBASSY ASSISTANCE WILL BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

4. GENERAL PURPOSE AND THRUST OF THIS SERIES OF BILATERAL TALKS WILL BE TO CAPITALIZE UPON AND CARRY FORWARD FAVORABLE MOMENTUM RECENTLY IMPARTED TO CONCEPT OF BETTER COMMUNICATION AND DIALOGUE BY THE UNUSUAL SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WHICH OCCURRED DURING DECEMBER AND JANUARY. AS TALKS PROGRESS AND SENSE OF CONFIDENCE GROWS, WE WOULD HOPE TO PROVIDE USEFUL NEW FORUM IN WHICH PROBLEMS AND ESPECIALLY INCIPIENT PROBLEMS MAY BE IDENTIFIED, DISCUSSED, AND EASED OR RESOLVED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDLY COLLABORATION RATHER THAN UNHELPFUL CONFRONTATION. OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT.

5. VENEZUELAN EMBASSY RESPONSE WAS FAVORABLE AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN PRINCIPLE TO HOLD FIRST BILATERAL MEETING, WITH BOTH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR BURELLI PRESENT, ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6. CONFIRMATION THIS DATE EXPECTED MONDAY MARCH 3.

6. MEMCON FOLLOWS. KISSINGER

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